

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 NIC-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01

OES-03 FEAE-00 /041 W

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O R 171314Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 662

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

USINT BAGHDAD

AEMBASSY BEIRUT (POUCH)

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 2483

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS PFOR, IZ, IR

SUBJ: IRAN AND IRAQ SIGN BORDER AGREEMENT

1. CARRYING THE ALGIERS ACCORD ONLY A SMALL STEP FORWARD, FOREIGN MINISTERS OF IRAN AND IRAQ SIGNED A BORDER AGREEMENT AT 8 A.M. LOCAL TIME MARCH 17. SIGNING TOOK PLACE IN PRESENCE ALGERIAN FONMIN BOUTEFLIKA, WHO WILL LEAVE TEHRAN SAME DAY, FOLLOWED BY IRAQI FONMIN HAMMADI. ACCORDING TO AP, AGREEMENT REPEATS SAME POINTS OF ALGIERS ACCORD (TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE). ACCOMPANYING COMMUNIQUE STATES THAT THREE COMMITTEES OF EXPERTS FROM THE THREE COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED TO CONSIDER 1) LAND BOUNDARY, 2) WATER BOUNDARY DELINEATED ON THALWEG PRINCIPLE, AND 3) SECURITY OF BORDER. THESE COMMITTEES TOTAL SOME 50 MILITARY AND POLITICAL EXPERTS AND
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WILL CONTINUE TO MEET IN TEHRAN, IN PREPARATION FOR A FURTHER

MEETING OF IRANIAN AND IRAQI FONMINS. COMMUNIQUE SAID A DOCUMENT HAD BEEN PRESENTED TO THREE FONMINS OUTLINING PROCEDURES OF COMMITTEES BUT THIS HAS NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC.

2. KURDISH DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIAL SHAMAL KARIM TOLD EMBOFF KURDS ARE DISTRESSED THAT THEIR FATE IS BEING DECIDED IN MEETINGS WHERE THEY ARE NOT REPRESENTED. HE BELIEVES KURDS WILL NOT ACCEPT IRAQI AMNESTY AND WILL REMAIN IN IRAN AS LONG AS ALLOWED TO. NEITHER AGREEMENT NOR COMMUNIQUE SAYS WHAT POLICY HAS BEEN AGREED UPON FOR DEALING WITH KURDS.

3. DURING INTERVIEW ON IRAN RADIO LATER SAME DAY, FONMIN KHALATBARY SAID HE EXPECTED PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA TO GO TO BAGHDAD, POSSIBLY IN IRANIAN MONTH BEGINNING MARCH 22. KHALATBARY ANSWERED QUESTION ABOUT STATUS OF KURDS BY SAYING MOVEMENT ACROSS BORDER WAS CONSULAR PROBLEM WHICH WOULD BE ADDRESSED LATER, BUT KURDS WOULD CERTAINLY NOT BE FORCED TO LEAVE IRAN. HE EXPECTED THAT FORTHCOMING MEETING OF FONMINS WOULD TAKE PLACE IN BAGHDAD.

4. COMMENT: AGREEMENT AND COMMUNIQUE DO LITTLE MORE THAN REITERATE ALGIERS ACCORD. DIFFICULT TO SEE WHY DELIBERATIONS LEADING TO THEM TOOK TWO DAYS, BECAUSE ALL CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES STILL REMAIN TO BE ADDRESSED BY COMMITTEES. AT LEAST DISCUSSIONS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN CORDIAL, AND ALL PARTIES ARE ONCE AGAIN ON RECORD AS DESIROUS OF REACHING TOTAL SETTLEMENT OF ALL BORDER ISSUES. KURDISH ISSUE IS CLEARLY MOST KNOTTY PROBLEM. ALTHOUGH KURDS SUFFERED SETBACKS DURING INTENSE FIGHTING MARCH 7-13, IRANIAN INFORMATION IS THAT CEASE-FIRE OF MARCH 13 GENERALLY BEING OBSERVED. IN THIS CONNECTION, SHAH TOLD AMBASSADOR MARCH 17 THAT CEASE-FIRE WOULD LAST UNTIL APRIL 1. HE EXPRESSED GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS. IF IRAQIS AGAIN DECIDE TO ATTEMPT FINAL SETTLEMENT OF KURDISH PROBLEM DURING NEXT TWO WEEKS, IRANIAN RELUCTANCE TO SEE KURDS GO UNDER COULD TORPEDO TECHNICAL TALKS. IRAN PLANS TO ALLOW KURDS TO MOVE ACROSS BORDER UNTIL EXPIRATION OF IRAQI AMNESTY ON APRIL 1, AT WHICH TIME FIRM CLOSURE OF BORDER IS TO BEGIN. THEREAFTER IRAQI MOVES AGAINST KURDS WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR IRAN TO PREVENT.

HELMS

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